

Joseph and Emma May Hoover House
203 1/2 Whittier Avenue
Llysven Neighborhood
Altoona
Blair County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5910

HABS
PA,
7-ALTO,
134-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
JOSEPH AND EMMA MAY HOOVER HOUSE

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Location: 203-1/2 West Whittier Avenue

Date of Erection: 1905

Description: An original "Llyswen cottage," this two-and-a-half-story, wood-frame house has a cross-gable roof and narrow drop siding. Colonial Revival elements include the shingled front gable's cornice returns over a wide frieze with dentil trim, and the triple-sash window at the entry, topped by an elliptical fanlight. The original entry is now enclosed in a sunroom addition to the front of the house.

History: This house, flanked by two other residences of identical plan (Nos. 203 and 205) was built in 1905 for Joseph L. and Emma May Hoover. Joseph was a conductor for the Altoona and Logan Valley Electric Railway, and probably a friend of William McCulloch, a dispatcher for the ALVERy who sold Hoover half of his own lot in 1904 for \$250. Before 1904, McCulloch had lived at 1718 6th Ave. with A. R. Olewine, who bought the lot next to Hoover's that same year. The three houses were built at the same time, possibly by their owners; at any rate, building from the same plans probably meant substantial savings on materials and any necessary contracted labor. In 1932 Joseph transferred the deed to the house at No. 203-1/2 to his wife, apparently to protect it from his creditors. In 1956 Emma Hoover sold the house for \$4,900 to Fred and Emily Iacovetti, proprietors of Iacovetti's Restaurant at 12th Street and 7th Avenue. Fred retired to Florida in 1972, and several subsequent owners have used the house as a rental property. It also stood vacant for several years. The current owners purchased it in 1989.

Sources: Maps: 1920, 1932, 1951. City directories. Tax records. Deed books: 149/259, 151/126, 407/42, 407/46, 728/511, 936/677, 952/367, 960/138, 977/46, 1089/423, 1166/219.

Project Information: This report was part of a larger project to document the city of Altoona, Pennsylvania. The project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER), Robert Kapsch, chief, at the request of America's Industrial Heritage Project (AIHP), Randy Cooley, director. An overview of the history of the city (HABS No. PA-5784) and an overview of Llyswen (HABS No. PA-5787) provide context for these buildings as well as a comprehensive list of sources. See also additional HABS reports on buildings in the city and other neighborhoods.

This report was prepared by Kathy Edwards in the summer of 1989 under the supervision of Alison K. Hoagland, HABS historian, and Kim E. Wallace, supervisory historian. Edwards's and other project historians' work was published as Railroad City: Four Historic Neighborhoods in Altoona, Pennsylvania (Washington, D.C.: HABS/HAER, National Park Service, 1990), edited by Kim E. Wallace, supervisory historian, and Sara Amy Leach, HABS historian.